commercial basis. It is not a scientific study. That is the reason why the reports received from Madras or Calicut are not sufficient for our purpose.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is this young man going out into the sea for work ?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Minister for Rural Development):* Not to the sea. It is only in the backwaters.

FOREST EXCLUSIONS—MACHAD—PARTICULARS OF ASSIGNMENT

13. Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) on whose recommendation and for what purposes were certain survey numbers covering a total area of 58 acres 19 cents in Block No. 62 of Machad Forests declared removed from Forest Exclusions under section 17 of the Forest Act (please vide notifications of the Government Nos. 129 and 130 of 19th June 1941 and 20th June 1941 respectively);

(*b*) whether the Government have any idea to assign the plot referred to above to any private individual;

(*c*) whether it has already been assigned;

(*d*) if not, whether anybody has applied for those plots; if so, who is the applicant?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) On the recommendation of the Diwan Peishkar and the Conservator of Forests and for the purpose of assignment.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Yes. (1) Karumankuzhi Sankunny Menon, Elanad Village, Talappilli Taluk, (2) Patinjare Madhathil Narayana Ayyar of Chelakkara Village, (3) Konnanath Thekkethil Patinjare Veetil Narayanan Nayar, Cheruthuruthi, (4) A. K. T. K. M. Narayanan Nambooripad, Desamangalam.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty *(Ezhuvas-Trichur):* May I know whether these assignments were made after putting it up for public auction ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The general order is that it must be by public auction and whenever there is more than one individual applying for the same plot, undoubtedly, it

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is disposed of in public auction. But, in special cases where we find that it is unnecessary, that is to say, you have got a certain plot here and you have got an adjacent plot, there will be nobody else interested, in such cases, after making local enquiries if you find that there is no necessity for putting it up for auction, it is assigned to the man who is the owner of the adjacent plot.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: If it is done by auction the man who bids for the highest price gets it. Is it not ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Why should the Government make any distinction ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Nobody else is interested in that particular plot.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: How can anybody claim if you don't put it up for public auction ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It is not a question of large acreage being disposed of by private assignment. Supposing with reference to two or three small bits there is only one individual who is interested. Then that particular man is given the benefit of that plot. If there is an area of 10, 15 or 50 acres then it is sold by public auction.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Here it is 58 acres.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Then the answer is, it is to be sold by public auction. Only three and odd acres are going to be assigned. The general principle is, it must be sold by public auction and that principle is accepted and worked out when the area is large.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Why should the Government make any distinction at all in the case of small areas ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No distinction is made. The procedure is this. Whenever a man wants a piece of land from the forest, exclusion is sought. These are exclusions from forests. There is usually no area available for assignment unless excluded from forest. He makes an application for exclusion and then we investigate into it, and if he wants only a small area just necessary for the protection of his lands which are vast in number, then we exclude that portion and assign it to him. If during such investigation it is found that larger areas are available for exclusion and could be given out to the public for cultivation, then those will be excluded and sold in public auction. That is the general method.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* The sum and substance of the Diwan Peishkar's statement is that forest exclusion is given for mere asking when they want a particular area.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* You have completely misunderstood the position. Assignments are given only of small bits for protection of their lands. That is the test so far as assignments are concerned. But, generally, you may take it from me that 90 per cent of the exclusions are sold in public auction. Even in such cases where one man wants a bit for the protection of his land, if there is any other person who wants it, sure as anything the order will be to sell it by public auction.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* In this particular case, may I know whether the Government intend to assign it in the name of the applicants or whether they will put it up for auction?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Out of 58 and odd acres only three and odd acres are to be assigned.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know whether the assignment is already over?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No, Sir.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Is it not an old principle that adjacent owners of lands should be given preference?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes, if it is a question of assignment.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Are these applicants included in the class of persons interested in the neighbouring area?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes. It is at the instance of some of these persons that portions were excluded.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Does not the Government also see that proper price is fetched even though the plot is assigned.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Such cases are very few and are always given for proper prices.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know whether all these four applicants have got lands in the neighbourhood?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peiskar):* Yes.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talapalli):* Are there not landless people residing in these localities?

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Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I must have notice.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: What is the protection sought by extension of lands by these landholders ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: They will cut off the forest growth and then, if the wild beasts come, it is possible for them to drive these beasts away. These are rocky areas or areas which cannot be used for cultivation. But so long as there is the forest there, they cannot touch it. If it is left like that the wild beasts will spoil their crops and they will be in a helpless condition. It is only to prevent that that exclusions are made and assignments are given.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: Suppose these areas are used for cultivation and after that they require some more extention what will the Government do ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: In my experience such a thing has not taken place. It is a possibility. But when such things come up, we will go into the question of *bona fides* and *mala fides*.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli)*: May I know whether Government have any objection to assign these lands to people who have no lands ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: At the time of auction nobody is excluded. If the question is one of assignment there are certain considerations which have to be looked into. Preference has to be given to the adjacent owner to a certain width.

Mr. President: It is only up to a width of two chains that the owner of the adjoining property is entitled to get as a matter of right or as a matter of rule. That is meant as a protective margin for the better cultivation of his own lands. It is only that that is given to the adjacent owner. The rest is always put up for auction.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ: പ്രൊട്ടക്ടീവ് മാർജിൻ ഒഴിവാക്കിയാലും അവിടെ കൾട്ടിവേറ്റ ചെയ്യുവാനിടയില്ലെ ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: അങ്ങിനെയല്ല, കൾട്ടിവേറ്റ ചെയ്യുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയുള്ള ഭാഗങ്ങൾ കൊടുക്കുകയില്ല. റാക്കി പോർഷൻസ്സ് മാത്രമെ കൊടുക്കാറുള്ളൂ. മൂന്നാലു് അനുഭവങ്ങൾ കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടാണു് അങ്ങിനെ കൊടുക്കുന്നതു്.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Is the assignment free ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: Nothing is given free.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know from the Diwan Peishkar whether the plot in question will be put up for public auction ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Of course, excluding three and odd acres.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* Will it be published in the Gazette ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is only after publication in the Gazette that auctions are held.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ELECTIONS—1113 AND 1117—LIST OF VOTERS

14. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to print and lay on the table a statement containing the number of voters in each constituency in the last Legislative Council elections and the number of voters in each constituency according to the voters list already published by Government for the ensuing elections of the Council?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* A statement containing the information is placed on the Council table.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have noted that invariably in all constituencies except one or two, the number of voters has decreased by hundreds and in some cases by thousands ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* At a glance at it I have been able to find that there have been slight decreases in some and a large decrease in a few.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be pleased to instruct the Village officers to find out *suo moto* the number of voters omitted in the first list and include it in the final electoral roll ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is a method provided by the Legislative Council Electoral Rolls for the preparation of these lists. That stage at which the work has to be done by Village officers is past. The next stage is for claimants and objectors to come in. I do not think there is any place for the Village officers' work at this stage.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Have the Government noticed that there are flagrant violations with reference to the previous roll and do the Government think that the Village officers have done their duties in this matter properly ? There are

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